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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

EB-07 XMB-02 OMB-01 CIEP-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /043 W
---------- 129078
R 031811Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2374

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EFIN, CI
SUBJ: CHILEAN VIEWS ON CEPCIES COUNTRY REVIEW

REF STATE 043602

1. (BEGIN UNICLASSIFIED) SUMMARY. LOCAL PRESS AND GOC OFFICIALS HAVE PLAYED RESULTS OF RECENT CEPCIES COUNTRY REVIEW AS SOMETHING OF A TRIUMPH FOR CHILE. AID, IMF, AND CEPCIES STAFF HAVE BEEN CITED AS BEING PARTICULARLY COOPERATIVE. THERE HAS BEEN NO CRITICISM OF IBRD. END SUMMARY.

2. SANTIAGO PRESS GAVE HEAVY PLAY TO FEBRUARY 20-24 CEPCIES REVIEW OF CHILE, RELYING MOSTLY ON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS. SUBSEQUENTLY, MINISTER OF ECONOMY LENIZ AND MINISTER OF FINANCE CAUAS (CHIEF OF GOC DELEGATION) HAVE PUBLICLY SPOKEN OF THE MEETING AS A REAL ACHIEVEMENT. THEY HAVE CONCENTRATED ON ACCEPTANCE OF CAUAS PRESENTATION BY THOSE ATTENDING REVIEW AS ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF CHILE'S PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION, ON GENERAL APPROVAL BY CEPCIES OF GOC ECONOMIC POLICIES, AND ON STATEMENTS BY AID, IMF, IDB, AND CEPCIES SPOKESMEN FAVORING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO OVERCOME CHILE'S PROBLEMS. THE PRESS HAS IMPLIED (INACCURATELY) THAT $300 MILLION IN NEW CREDITS WERE LINED UP ($94 MILLION FROM THE IMF SPECIAL OIL FUND, $94 MILLION IN AN IMF STANDBY AND $80 MILLION IN
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IBRD PROJECT LOANS). END UNCLASSIFIED

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3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. IN FEBURARY 28 DISCUSSION WITH ECOM COUNSELOR, CAUAS CONFIRMED HIS SATISFACTION WITH CEPCIES MEETING. HE SAID INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH US OFFICIALS (STATE, TREASURY, EXIM BANK, AID) ABOUT DEBT RESCHEDULING AND NEW LOANS WERE VERY HELPFUL. EVEN ON SUBJECT OF IBRD CAUAS WAS NOT NEGATIVE. HE THOUGHT WORLD BANK POSTURE AT CEPCIES, WHILE NOT TERRIBLY FORTHCOMING, WAS NOT UNFRIENDLY. CAUAS HOPED THAT HIS PRIVATE TALK WITH IBRD PRESIDENT MCNAMARA MIGHT HELP MOVE AHEAD PROJECTS PRESENTLY BEING STUDIED. IN SHORT, CAUAS SAID THE MEETING FULLY SATISFIED HIS EXPECTATIONS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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